

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

Response to Terrorist Attacks - 107th Congress

In many ways, September 11 seems so long ago. At the same time, much has changed since the cowardly attacks on New York City, Washington, DC and rural Pennsylvania. America now knows what happened and who is responsible. While it is still very difficult to accept, the courage of this nation will prevail. Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy vows to tap every available federal resource made available to address the tragedy. She has worked with all of her colleagues from New York on emergency spending for victims and their families as they face futures forever changed.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE: CONGRESS ACTS

- ✓ Within 5 days of the attack, Congress passed a special \$40 billion emergency spending bill to assist in humanitarian efforts, search and recovery operation and national security needs. \$20 billion of this was set aside specifically for New York.
- ✓ To aid the airline industry and establish a relief fund for the victims, Congress passed the **Air Transportation System Stabilization Act**, providing direct payments with low interest loans to help airline companies operate. This legislation also created the *September 11th Victims' Compensation Fund* for those who lost loved ones in this senseless attack.
- ✓ Legislation was passed federalizing our airport security. This legislation provides more security for the airline industry in the form of more federal air marshals, better trained security personnel and securing cockpit doors.

ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy helped pass legislation that expedites payment of benefits to the Public Safety Officer or the officer's family who were killed or suffered catastrophic injury in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist acts of September 11. ***(Signed into law September 18, 2001: P.L. 107-37)***
- ✓ As a Member of the Education and Workforce Committee, Congresswoman McCarthy passed legislation in committee that forgives student loans for the spouses of public safety officers killed as a result of the terrorist attacks.

- ✓ Ensuring proper relief for the victims' of September 11 is an ongoing and important matter. That is why Congresswoman McCarthy helped passed legislation that provides Federal income tax relief (*similar to current provisions for military personnel*) to individuals who died as a result of the attacks. It also ensures that FEMA assistance payments are exempt from Federal income tax. (*Signed into law January 23, 2002 P.L. 107-134*)
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy helped pass the *September 11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. (Title IV of Public Law 107-42.)* The fund creates a federal program to compensate victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. A victim or his estate may seek no-fault compensation from the program or may bring a tort action against an airline or any other party, but may not do both.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy managed **H.R. 3086, HERO Act of 2001**, which grants waivers to reservists called up for active duty, relieving them from making student loan payments while they serve in the armed forces.

SECURING OUR SKIES

To increase security at our airports, Congresswoman McCarthy helped pass legislation that requires airport authorities to phase in a fully federalized baggage screener work force no later than one year after the date of enactment. Airports are then required to keep the federalized system in place for two years, after which they can choose to opt out and use private security firms, at the discretion of a new Transportation Security Administration. The semi-autonomous agency will be located within the Transportation Department - some lawmakers wanted it in the Justice Department - and will have broad authority to hire, discipline and fire baggage screeners.

Airports that choose to use private screeners after two years still would be subject to federal supervision.

BIO-TERRORISM PREVENTION

- ✓ Bioterrorism is an escalating concern. That is why Congresswoman McCarthy helped pass **H.R. 3160, Bio-terrorism Enforcement Act of 2001**. In addition to setting criminal penalties for the unsafe and illegal possession of biological agents, the bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to promulgate new standards and procedures for transferring these toxins.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy helped pass **H.R.3448, Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001**. Specifically the measure:
 - ▶ authorizes \$450 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to upgrade their own capacities to deal with public health threats, to renovate their facilities and to improve their security;
 - ▶ authorizes \$1 billion in grants to states, local governments, and other public

and private health care facilities and other entities to improve planning and preparedness activities, enhance laboratory capacity, educate and train health care personnel, and to develop new drugs, therapies, and vaccines;

- ▶ authorizes more than \$1 billion for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand our current national stockpiles of medicines and other supplies, including the purchase of additional smallpox vaccines;
- ▶ establishes a national database of dangerous pathogens, and imposes new registration requirements on all possessors of the 36 most deadly biological agents and toxins and mandates tough new safety and security requirements;
- ▶ further protects our food supply by increasing by \$100 million FDA resources to enable the Secretary to hire more inspectors at our borders and develop new methods to detect contaminated foods; and
- ▶ better protects against chemical, biological or radiological attacks on our drinking water by authorizing over \$100 million for the development of vulnerability analyses and emergency response plans for drinking water.

REBUILDING NEW YORK

- ✓ In order to attract businesses back to New York, Congresswoman McCarthy supported an economic stimulus package that included several temporary tax provisions aimed at providing reconstruction incentives to businesses located in the "New York Liberty Zone" surrounding the World Trade Center.

The bill includes the following:

- **Expansion of Work Opportunity Credit** -- Makes the Work Opportunity Credit available to businesses who employ individuals who work in the recovery zone around the World Trade Center, or for businesses that relocated from this area, due to damage from the Sept. 11 attacks, to another area in New York City. The credit would be available to businesses in 2002 and 2003 and would include existing employees and new hires.
- **Extended 30% Depreciation** -- Extends the additional 30% depreciation deduction through 2006 and applies it to residential and non-residential structures through 2009.
- **Leasehold Improvements** -- Reduces the recovery period for leasehold improvements to five years (*through 2006*).
- **Small Business Expensing** -- Increases, by an additional \$35,000 (to \$70,000), the amount that may be deducted by small businesses for the cost of purchasing certain property and includes only 50% of the cost of qualifying property when determining the phase-out point for the deduction (*through 2006*).
- **Tax-exempt Bonds** -- Authorizes the issuance of \$8 BILLION in tax-exempt bonds over the next three years for reconstruction in the areas of New York City damaged by the Sept. 11 attacks.
- **Reinvesting Gains** -- Extends from two years to five years the time a taxpayer has to

reinvest gains from property involuntarily converted (i.e. insurance proceeds) in the World Trade Center area on Sept. 11 without paying tax on the gains. The gains must be substantially reinvested in New York City to qualify.

MISCELLANEOUS LEGISLATION

Listed below is legislation Congresswoman McCarthy sponsored and cosponsored addressing the terrorist attacks of September 11th. For more information on these bills, please refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Description</i>
H.CON.RES. 225	Solidarity Declaration	Expressing the sense of the Congress that, as a symbol of solidarity following the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, every United States citizen is encouraged to display the flag of the United States.
H.CON.RES. .230		Expressing the sense of Congress regarding a National Day of Remembrance.
H.CON.RES. .234	Steel Industry Importance	Expressing the sense of Congress relating to the increased importance of the United States steel industry since the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.
H.CON.RES. 243	Public Safety Medal	Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be presented to the public safety officers who have perished and select other public safety officers who deserve special recognition for outstanding valor above and beyond the call of duty in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.
H.CON.RES. .249	NYC Joint Session	Providing for a joint session of Congress to be held in New York City, New York.
H.CON.RES. .257	US Postal Excellence	Expressing the sense of the Congress that the men and women of the United States Postal Service have done an outstanding job of delivering the mail during this time of national emergency.
H.CON.RES. 276**	Proper usage of Contributions	Expressing the sense of Congress that donations solicited by charitable organizations for the victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, should be used exclusively for the benefit of such victims.
H.RES.243	Honoring Rudy	Honoring Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the rescue workers, and the residents of New York, New York, for their valiant efforts in responding to the terrorist attack.
H.RES.225	Condemning Bigotry	Condemning bigotry and violence against Sikh Americans in the wake of terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001.

Bill No.	Title	Description
H.R. 2882	Public Safety Officer Benefits bill	To provide for the expedited payment of certain benefits for a public safety officer who was killed or suffered a catastrophic injury as a direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.
H.R. 2884	Victims of Terrorism Relief Act of 2001	An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States, and for other purposes.
H.R. 2907	September 11th Families Stamp Act	To provide for the issuance of a semipostal for the benefit of victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.
H.R. 2946	Displaced Workers Relief Act of 2001	To provide assistance to employees who suffer loss of employment in the airline industry as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.
H.R. 2955	Displaced Workers Assistance Act	To provide assistance for employees who are separated from employment as a result of reductions in service by air carriers, and closures of airports, caused by terrorist actions or security measures.
H.R. 2965	Criminal Alien Visa Denial Act of 2001	To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the exchange of information by electronic means between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other Federal agencies.
H.R. 2982		To authorize the establishment of a memorial within the area in the District of Columbia referred to in the Commemorative Works Act as "Area I" or "Area II" to the victims of terrorist attacks on the United States, to provide for the design and construction of such a memorial, and for other purposes.
H.R. 3026	Office of Homeland Security Act of 2001	To establish an Office of Homeland Security within the Executive Office of the President to lead, oversee, and coordinate a comprehensive national homeland security strategy to safeguard the Nation.
H.R. 3054	True American Heroes Act	To award congressional gold medals on behalf of the officers, emergency workers, and other employees of the Federal Government and any State or local government, including any interstate governmental entity, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001.
H.R. 3086	Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2001	To provide the Secretary of Education with specific waiver authority to respond to conditions in the national emergency declared by the President of the United States on September 14, 2001.
H.R. 3106	Protecting America's Children Against Terrorism Act	To protect children from terrorism.

Bill No.	Title	Description
H.R. 3110	Transportation Security Enhancement Act of 2001	To improve aviation security, and for other purposes.
H.R. 3123	Bomb Threat Responsibility Act of 2001	To amend chapter 40 of title 18, United States Code, to increase the penalties for using an instrumentality of interstate commerce to threaten to kill, injure, or intimidate any individual or unlawfully to damage or destroy property by means of fire or an explosive.
H.R. 3161	Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act	To direct the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide grants to local governments and emergency response units to develop plans for a clearly defined and coordinated response to emergencies, and to provide grants to police and fire departments for counterterrorism training.
H.R. 3163**	September 11 Surviving Spouse Student Loan Relief Act	To provide student loan forgiveness to the surviving spouses of the victims of the September 11, 2001, tragedies.
H.R. 3244	Spirit of America Commemorative Coin Act of 2001	To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America and to establish the Victims of September 11th Fund.
H.R. 3255	Bioterrorism Protection Act (BioPAct) of 2001	To respond to the threat of bioterrorism.
H.R. 3285	Federal-Local Information Sharing Partnership Act of 2001	To provide for the sharing of certain foreign intelligence information with local law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes.
H.R. 3294**	Cleanup and Reconstruction Assistance Act of 2001	To provide for the distribution of assets frozen pursuant to Executive Order 13224 and similar Executive orders to the State of New York, the State of Pennsylvania, and the Department of Defense to cover cleanup and reconstruction costs associated with the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.
H.R. 3330	Afghan Women and Children Relief Act of 2001	To authorize the provision of educational and health care assistance to the women and children of Afghanistan.
H.R. 3402	New York Recovery From Terrorism Act of 2001	To provide tax incentives for the recovery of businesses in the City of New York which were impacted by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
H.R. 3544**	Congressional Gold Medal	To provide for a congressional medal appropriate for the civilians killed or wounded by the terrorist attacks.
H.R. 3373	New York Liberty Zone Tax Relief Act of 2001	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for the recovery of the area of New York City damaged in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

****Legislation sponsored by Congresswoman McCarthy**